

Andrea G. Reister
Of Counsel
(202) 383-7438
reistera@howrey.com



February 19, 1998

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Re: U.S. Utility Patent Application
Appl. No. 08/850,679; Filed: May 2, 1997
For: Preparation of Extended Shelf-Life Biodegradable,
Biocompatible Microparticles Containing a
Biologically Active Agent
Inventors: Rickey *et al.*
Our Ref: 00166.0063.0002

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FEB 23 1998

MATRIX CUSTOMER
SERVICE CENTER

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for appropriate action by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) are the following documents:

1. First Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement;
2. Form PTO-1449;
3. Two cited documents; and
4. Return postcard receipt.

It is respectfully requested that the attached postcard be stamped with the date of filing of these documents, and that it be returned to our courier. In the event that extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned.

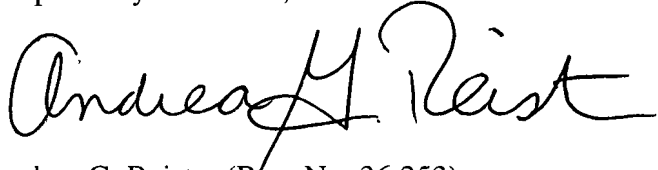
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The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 08-3038. A duplicate copy of this letter is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Andrea G. Reister". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Andrea" and last name "Reister" clearly legible.

Andrea G. Reister (Reg. No. 36,253)

Enclosures